

REMARKS

Summary of Amendments

5 Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the limitations common between
claims 5 and 6, to incorporate the limitations of claim 13, and to add a limitation to
the recitation of the reaction-mixture circulating pump. Accordingly, claim 5 has
been canceled and claim 6 has been amended to recite only the limitations
additional over those added to claim 4.

10 Claim 8 has been canceled, as having depended from a now-canceled
claim 5. Claim 13 has also been canceled, as have claims 14-17, which save for
different dependencies were identical to claim 13.

15 Claims 1-3 are withdrawn as a result of Applicant's November 21, 2005
election without traverse. Meanwhile, claims 7 and 9-12 remain in their original
form.

20 In sum, claims 4, 6, 7, and 9-12 are currently pending.

Specification

25 The objection to the specification for containing a blank page, which
appears in between the abstract and the first page of the drawings, is
acknowledged. Nevertheless, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be
held in abeyance until allowable subject matter has been indicated in the present
application.

30 The blank page is an artifact of this application having been filed by the
USPTO's "PASAT" electronic filing system, which is two generations prior to the
current Web-based EFS, and was riddled with such problems as producing
unwanted blank pages. (It is believed that the only way to correct the problem of
the blank page would be to file a substitute specification.)

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Claims 4-17; combined disclosures in Haff et al. '413

40 Claims 14-17 were rejected as being unpatentable over a combination of
embodiments disclosed in European Pat. App. Pub. No. 0 636 413 A2.

 Claim 4 has been amended to recite:

45 a recirculation-path system through which the reaction mixture
in the reaction-mixture tank is fed and guided, the recirculation-path
system including a coiled heat-exchange section immersed into the
denaturing isothermal tank, a coiled heat-exchange section
immersed into the annealing isothermal tank, and a coiled

heat-exchange section immersed into the elongation isothermal tank, the recirculation-path system therein being arranged to circuit from and back to the reaction-mixture tank by way of the respective coiled sections immersed into the denaturing, annealing and elongation isothermal tanks and connected by intervening out-of-tank sections.

In addition, claim 4 has been amended to recite that the denaturing, annealing and elongation isothermal tanks each include a heating and stirring devices.

On page 6, the Office action states,

A practitioner of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that coiled tubing could have been incorporated into the apparatus disclosed in Figure 1 of Haff et al. to control residence time of the reaction mixture in each temperature zone.

Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that the foregoing does not amount to a *prima facie* case of a motivation to combine to produce a device as now recited in claim 4—that is, of a unique combination of elements whose synergy leads to the non-obviousness of the present invention.

Claims 6, 7, and 9-12 should be held allowable as depending from a now-allowable base claim.

2. Claims 4, 5 and 7-17 12 Corbett et al. '183 in view of Narang Medical Ltd. website

Claims 4, 5 and 7-17 12 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,270,183 to Corbett et al. in view of information available online at a Web address to Narang Medical Ltd.

The Office acknowledges that Corbett et al. do not teach the limitations of claim 6, and thus cites the Narang Medical Ltd. Web page. Nevertheless, it is respectfully asserted that the patentability of the present invention does not lie in the subject matter of claim 6, but in that of claim 4 as now amended. It is believed that claim 4 should be held allowable for the same reasons set forth in addressing the rejection over the Haff et al. reference.

Likewise, claims 6, 7, and 9-12 should be held allowable as depending from a now-allowable base claim.

A response to this Office Action was due by May 8, 2006, and consequently a Petition for Extension of Time, along with fee transmittal and credit-card payment authorization forms, is attached hereto. Please consider this amendment as timely filed.

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Accordingly, Applicant courteously urges that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested. Favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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